UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

H.B. 1278 RELATING TO IMPROVING WATER QUALITY

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Finance

February 25, 2005

By

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HB 1278 relating to improving water quality

Chair Dwight Takamine, Vice Chair Bertha Kawakami and Members of the
Committee:

House Bill 1278 appropriates funds to develop and demonstrate
comprehensive watershed management measures to improve water quality of
Lake Wilson and reduce contaminated sediments in statewide waterways.

The University of Hawaii’s Center for Conservation Research and Training
(CCRT) has been asked by the Legislature to address the issues outlined in the
bill. CCRT does have the capacity to do so and we will be able to establish a
comprehensive watershed management plan that can improve the water quality
of Lake Wilson including the drainage areas surrounding the lake. Furthermore,
while the plan will be designed to specifically address the Lake Wilson issues,
because of the more comprehensive watershed management approach, such a
plan will be applicable more widely to improve water quality of streams and
wetlands statewide.

The University of Hawaii is in concurrence with the intent of the bill and
strongly supports its passage on the condition that the funds requested for the
project do not supplant any portion of the University’s Biennium Budget.

Thank you.